

A Wickham Common Primary School publication





Meet the Teacher | What I did in Lockdown | Back at Wickham Common | Managing Coronavirus at School

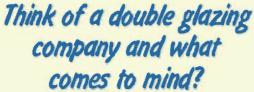
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#### Welcome to

## Vista

Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of Vista Magazine, brought to you by the Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) of Wickham Common Primary School (WCPS).



Did you know WCPS PTA is a registered charity? Registration number 1044371.

This publication is produced and distributed by a team of volunteers and all profits go to the PTA; directly benefiting the pupils of Wickham Common Primary School.

#### The Vista Team 2020

Editorial: Shabana Watson

Advertising: PTA Volunteers, Jade DeSouza, Julie Cleary,

Jessica Willan, Annabel Sobers-Richards

**Invoicing:** Tracey Stewart

**Distribution:** Louise Higgins and Rachel Aviss



#### We are looking for a new Vista Team

If you are interested to join our fabulous team, please email <a href="mailto:vistawickhamcommon@gmail.com">vistawickhamcommon@gmail.com</a>

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Goodbye and thank you to the previous Vista Team, Shabana Watson, Nina Hunter-Torres and Elaine Fournier for their contribution for the last year.



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#### Meet the Teacher – Mr Slack

How long have you taught at Wickham Common? 7 years.

Who do you teach? Currently I'm a Year 2 teacher, but I have taught in 3 and 5 as well.

What do you most like teaching? As I'm part of the English team, anything involving Reading and Writing, but I do find teaching Maths really enjoyable too.

What makes Wickham Common special? I think the range of opportunities we offer our pupils outside of the everyday curriculum is outstanding.

What has been your highlight in your teaching years? Probably when myself and Mr Walker decided to re-write Macbeth in Year 5. The children performed it to parents and they were absolutely phenomenal.

What did you want to be as a child? A policeman or a wrestler.

What was your first job? I was a retail jeweller for more years than I care to remember!

What hobbies do you have? I do enjoy Reading, especially



children's books, but I'm pretty obsessed with Lego.

What is your favourite type of music? I'll listen to most things but I'm an indie rock fan at heart.

What's the most embarrassing thing you've ever done? I'm lucky that I don't get embarrassed easily but probably something to do with singing or dancing at an inappropriate time.

What is the best piece of advice you could give someone? Well The Rock says 'Be humble. Be hungry' and he seems to have done alright for himself.

What skill would you most like to have? I'm an adequate guitar player, but I'd love to be able to play the piano.

What are you most afraid of? Marking.

Name one person you'd like to have dinner with? Probably Anne Boleyn to see what really happened between her and Henry VIII.

#### What I did during lockdown

I've been getting way better at badminton. I started with a little badminton racket and then I moved onto a long badminton racket. But I still play with the little racket. I've been learning how to play the piano with this game called Piano Maestro. First, I played a song called Rocking, then I moved onto a song called Love Story. I also learned how to play chess and learned the names of all the pieces and what their moves are. Yasmin, Year 2

We had to bake some cookies in the shape of animals for home learning. I really liked decorating the cookies. The best part was eating the cookies. We made lots of cakes during lockdown. **Tiya, Year 1** 

During Lockdown, I did three music exams. In April, I took my Grade 2 trombone online; I got a merit. I had to record the pieces, scales, and aural tests with an examiner on Skype. In June, I did my Grade 2 piano; I jumped for joy when I heard I got a distinction. In July, I did my Grade 3 trombone, achieving it after Zoom lessons for only one term. **Edi, Year 5** 

In Lockdown, I competed in loads of Beaver badges and got the Best Beaver award in the whole of my colony for working hard. My family and friends were very proud of me and I was too! Jacob, Year 4 I was lucky to start horse riding during lockdown. The horse I rode was called Marvin. It was my first-time going horse riding. I also got to go up into a small, amazing village. Luckily, U was up in the Cotswolds which is where my nan lives. **Alannah, Year 4** 

In the summer holidays, I earned two Blue Peter badges. I sent in a picture of Lindsey and Henry to earn my Blue Badge and I earned my Music Badge too. **Aoife, Year 4** 

I went to Portugal and I went kayaking at sea. Our tour guide was called Mario. On the way back we landed at Cave Banagil. **Kuba, Year 2** 

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#### How has Coronavirus affected School Life?

How Wickham Common Primary School made sure their pupils did not become part of a 'lost generation'

Written by Deborah Allis Head Teacher

Back in February 2020 all eyes were on Italy. This strange flu-like disease from the Far East had reached a European country and seemed to be wreaking havoc, small towns were hit by outbreaks, carnivals and football matches were cancelled. On March 4<sup>th</sup> Italy closed their schools and as the month progressed they shut down businesses, bars, restaurants, shops and all industry ground to a halt.

After two hundred years of formal education being available in British schools, even during both World Wars schools remained open, the unthinkable looked set to happen. It was like watching a Sci-fi movie unfold and the other European countries began to take their own reluctant steps.

At Wickham Common, we prepared ourselves. We made sure that every child was fully conversant with their on-line learning, they knew all their log-ins and they knew how to access the wide variety of websites and portals that the school pays for to ensure that should we have to close the school the children would be ready. Teachers prepared lessons and made films, they demonstrated to the children how they could use these resources to continue their learning at home. On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March the teachers of Wickham Common participated in a staff meeting in which the plans were set down, we knew Lockdown was inevitable and what our educational offer would look like for our pupils. Later that evening Boris Johnson declared that all schools would close to most pupils with effect from that Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. We knew we were ready!

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#### How has Coronavirus affected School Life - continued from P.18

For the next 35 school days a small group of children and staff came into school each day, supporting learning, contacting our pupils and making phone calls. Everyone else continued to work from home, creating lessons, making videos, reading stories, demonstrating Phonics, Maths, Design & Technology projects, writing stories, Music and PE lessons were even filmed and shared with all our families. Wickham Common continued to offer a rich and diverse curriculum – over 100 videos were made by staff during those weeks – it was amazing!

As we neared the end of May we knew the government was gearing up for a partial return to school for some pupils, provided schools could keep them safe and sufficiently socially distanced. We cleaned, we moved furniture, we bought resources and sanitising materials, we created rotas, we worked everything out, we trained staff and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June we invited our Year 1 pupils back into school for three days so we could make sure we were doing everything safely. It was a great success, our wide corridors, spacious classrooms and huge outdoor spaces meant we could easily accommodate more children even in the 'bubbles' of only 15 children.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June we invited back our youngest and our eldest children. It was a huge success with 95% attendance from the eligible year groups. Parents, children and school staff were so glad to get back to some kind of 'new normality'. The sun shone and we basked in its rays.

After 4 more weeks had passed, we decided that our wonderful Year 6 pupils were ready to fly our nest, we hadn't been able to do so many of the fabulous activities that we usually do with them before they leave us but we still had a lot of fun and sent them on the next leg of their journey in style!

Continued on page 21

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#### How has Coronavirus affected School Life - continued from P.19

This meant that at Wickham Common we were then able to invite back into school years 2, 3, 4, 5 for two days each. In those two days the children spent a day with their existing teacher and a day with their new teacher for September. It wasn't much but it was extremely well received and everybody was so happy to see each other even though they were in their small bubbles. By the time we got to the end of term every single child who was a pupil at Wickham Common had been able to come back to school. Emotionally, mentally and physically this was a brilliant achievement and we felt rightly proud!

Finally, on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, schools were allowed to open their doors to <u>all</u> pupils again. A return to normal in some ways but not in others, a new normal had to be established. Lots and lots of hand washing, fresh air, exercise, outdoor learning, surface cleaning, social distancing, staggered start times, break times, lunch times, home times. It is different but it is also the same. There is a real sense of hope in school with a focus on happiness and wellbeing, renewing friendships, establishing routines and new beginnings. The resilience of children is forever a joy to behold, term has started well, teachers are fully aware of the gaps children have in their learning and they will fill those gaps with a rich, diverse and exciting curriculum of activities.

At Wickham Common there will be no 'lost generation' but rather a school full of the "Successful Learners, Confident Individuals and Responsible Citizens" our school values sets out for us all to be.



#### **Christmas Wordsearch**

Find the hidden words and email a picture of your completed wordsearch by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to <a href="mailto:vistawickhamcommon@gmail.com">vistawickhamcommon@gmail.com</a> to win a handmade Christmas Angel and Father Christmas.







## Christmas Word Search



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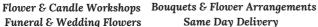
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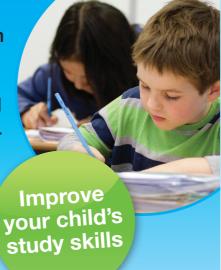


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